

LEVERAGING STANDARD TERMINAL EMULATION PROTOCOL AS A CONNECTION MECHANISM FOR INTERFACING WITH RFID BASE STATIONS

ABSTRACT

5 A system and method is provided for interfacing a radio frequency identification (RFID) device with a legacy terminal (i.e., an existing terminal). In one embodiment of the present invention, an RFID base station is adapted to interrogate an RFID transponder (tag) and a receiving terminal is adapted to communicate with the RFID base station using an RFID protocol and a legacy terminal using a standard terminal
10 emulation protocol. In this embodiment, the base station is adapted to transmit (or receive) information to (or from) the tag. The information received is then transmitted to the receiving terminal, where it is provided to the legacy terminal via standard terminal emulation protocol. In another embodiment of the present invention, the legacy terminal is adapted to imbed (and the receiving terminal is adapted to recognized) "special"
15 control characters in an emulation data string. By using "special" control characters (i.e., control characters that are recognizable by the receiving terminal), the legacy terminal is able to control the base station via the receiving terminal. In another embodiment of the present invention, the legacy terminal further includes a legacy application adapted to manipulate the information provided by the receiving terminal
20 and/or request information from the receiving terminal. In this embodiment, the legacy application is adapted to imbed control characters into an emulation data string such that the receiving terminal recognizes the data string as being "special."